

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 09019 170000Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----016407 170005Z /61/42

O 151751Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8677

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09019

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A 2 .)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MMO, FR, CD
SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

1. WE DO NOT THINK A NEGATIVE USG DECISION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT GOF WILLINGNESS IN THE SHORT TERM TO CONTINUE THEIR ASSISTANCE TO CHAD. THE FRENCH SIMPLY BELIEVE THEIR FORMAL COMMITMENT TO ASSIST CHAD GIVES THEM A STRONG MORAL OBLIGATION TO CONTINUE. THEY CANNOT SERIOUSLY EXPECT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, WHICH IS A UNIQUELY FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY.

2. THE FRENCH WERE, OF COURSE, SHARPLY DISAPPOINTED BY OUR DECISION ON ARMS FOR MOROCCO, BUT THEY CONSIDER OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS IN MOROCCO TO BE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR ROLE IN CHAD. THE EXIM BANK COMMITMENTS TO ALGERIA, COMING AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS OUR DECISION ON ARMS AID TO MOROCCO, MAY RAISE SOME DOUBTS WITHIN GOF AS TO CONSISTENCY AND LONG-TERM LOGIC OF OUR POLICY, SINCE THE FRENCH SEE BOUMEDIENE'S
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AMBITIONS IN THE SAHARA AS A CONSTANT THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF THAT REGION. HOWEVER, THESE DECISIONS EVEN TAKEN TOGETHER, ARE UNLIKELY TO ALTER GOF COMMITMENTS IN EITHER THE WESTERN SAHARA OR CHAD.

3. SHOULD THE LEFT WIN THE ELECTIONS (THIS SEEMS MUCH LESS PROBABLY NOW THAN IT DID LAST WEEK), ALGERIA, OR

CHAD WOULD ALTER THE LEFT'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF END-
ING EXISTING "INTERVENTIONIST" AFRICAN POLICY. OUR
POLICY CHOICES, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, WOULD ONLY BE
USED BY A LEFTIST GOF TO GIVE MARGINAL ADDITIONAL
RATIONALE TO THEIR OWN DECISIONS.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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